

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Embassy, Canberra*



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### **Philippine Ambassador Lauds First Filipino Australian Student Leaders National Summit, Melbourne, 15 July 2017**

Canberra - Philippine Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, lauds the success of the First Filipino Australian Student Leaders National Summit, with the theme *'Imagining & Shaping a Shared Future,'* at the University of Melbourne on 15 July 2017.

In remarks to representatives of Filipino and Filipino-Australian student organizations at the Summit, Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz congratulated the Filipino student organizations for their hard work in organizing the Summit and for their continuing commitment to establish an Australia-wide alliance of Filipino student organizations in Australia. Calling the Summit a *"dream unfolding,"* she recalled her strong support for an umbrella student organization when it was first raised by the Australia National University Filipino Association (ANUFA) in Canberra in January this year. She shared the opportunities and challenges facing students in a foreign country, having been a Colombo Plan scholar herself in 1985. She called on the student leaders to help each other as *kababayans* in Australia, to make the most of the opportunity to study in renowned universities, to engage with the wider Filipino and Australian community and to build networks for their personal and professional growth. She also challenged them to answer the call of nation-building back home.

Convened by the Filipino Australian Student Council (FASTCO) of Victoria, the Summit is an unprecedented gathering of Filipino Australian student leaders across Australia to bolster the Filipino Australian student community and assert its identity as a unified, inclusive and dynamic body. Present at the Summit were representatives from students organizations in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW), Queensland and Victoria.

Other speakers at the Summit were Mr. Michael Angelo Malicsi, FASTCO President, Dr. Trevor Hogan, Director of the Philippines-Australia Studies Centre, La Trobe University, Mr. Felix Pintado, Philippine Honorary Consul of Victoria, Mr. Dhiran Pillay, National Vice President of the ASEAN Youth Organization of Australia, and Mr. Ryan Ritchie and Mr. Soo Jian Guan from the Malaysian Students' Council of Australia (MASCA). Ms. Marian Cabuyadao, ANUFA President, presented the concept paper on the proposed alliance of Filipino student organizations in Australia.

The Summit was generously supported by Filipino companies in Melbourne.



(Left) Philippine Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Mr. Michael Angelo Malicsi, FASTCO President

(Below) Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz addresses the First Filipino Australian Student Leaders National Summit, Melbourne





Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz with honorary Consul Felix Pintado and Consul General Nina Cainglet, together with the student leaders of the Filipino Australian student organizations all over Australia during the First Filipino Australian Student Leaders National Summit, Melbourne.